
NEWS RELEASE

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SENATOR GREGG AGAIN CALLS ON ENERGY COMMITTEE TO INCLUDE STRONG RENEWABLE ENERGY COMPONENT IN FINAL ENERGY BILL

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH) today joined several of his Senate colleagues in calling on the Chairmen of the House/Senate Energy Conference Committee to include a significant renewable energy portfolio standard in any energy legislation that emerges from the Conference this Congress. Earlier this year, Senator Gregg called on the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Energy Committee to include a substantial increase in the production of renewable energy, including wind, solar, geothermal, and biomass, in Senate energy legislation. Senator Gregg supported a strong renewable energy package during Senate debate on the energy legislation last year. A similar standard has passed the Senate in both the 107th Congress and again this year.

Senator Gregg stated, "Any responsible energy legislation must include a balanced approach to reducing our energy dependence on foreign sources of fuel, an aggressive attempt to cultivate new and emerging energy sources domestically, and a substantial commitment to energy conservation. Renewable fuels meet all three of these goals and are important sources of energy that must be utilized."

In the letter to the Chairmen, the Senators stated, "By ensuring that retail electric utilities have generation portfolios that include a specific percentage of renewable energy or purchase credits from others that generate renewable energy, Congress can take an important step towards producing sound energy legislation.

"Enactment of a strong renewable portfolio standard would provide several very real benefits. An RPS will promote fuel diversity and...will also encourage on-site generation of renewable energy. On-site generation, also known as distributed generation, will help ease pressure on the centralized grid and will reduce the impacts if grid disruptions should occur.

"In addition, as the Department of Energy's own Energy Information Administration has noted on several occasions, an RPS would have a negligible impact on consumer energy costs. In fact, residential and industrial consumer natural gas costs would decline as a result of an RPS.

"Finally, encouraging an increased market share for renewable energy resources will have substantial environmental benefits. It will reduce nitrogen oxide, sulfur dioxide and mercury emissions from the utility sector, as well as the emission of greenhouse gases. An RPS will enable utilities to more easily meet their current and future Clean Air Act requirements, while enhancing public health."

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